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Washington, DC – On Wednesday, Rep. Steve Israel (D-Long Island) announced \$1.75 million in new federal funding for the Long Island Power Authority's (LIPA) 50 megawatt solar power initiative. Rep. Israel requested the funding as a Member of the House Appropriations Committee.

"If we are going to end our dependence on foreign oil once and for all, we need to make an unmitigated commitment to using alternative energy technologies. LIPA has done just that with their 50 megawatt solar power initiative – one of the largest solar power projects in New York State. The \$1.75 million in federal funds I secured for Long Island will be used by LIPA to deploy solar arrays across Long Island in order to meet the 50 megawatt goal of affordable renewable energy for Long Island Families," said Rep. Israel.

"Congressman Israel has been a true partner with LIPA in advancing smarter and cleaner energy on Long Island. I commend the Congressman for securing these federal dollars to help mitigate the cost of LIPA's solar energy project. I look forward to working with him and the rest of our delegation as we continue to try to bring federal dollars to LIPA to benefit our customers," said Kevin S. Law, President and CEO of LIPA.

LIPA's solar power initiative will eventually provide power for 6,500 household and reduce carbon emissions by 20,000 tons per year. The federal funding will be used to deploy solar arrays to selected sites from proposals incorporating photovoltaic arrays to be installed on commercial and municipal rooftops, along parking lots, and at brownfield sites.

The \$1.75 million in funding was passed by the House Appropriations Committee on July 7, 2009. It will now be voted on by the full House of Representatives as part of the FY2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water.